



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 June 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- IDG News reports that using a credit card at a gas station could pose more of a risk for data theft than shopping online, since point-of-sale terminals have emerged as a weak link in the security chain. (See item [6](#))
- The Christian Science Monitor reports the American aviation system may be in danger with repair and maintenance systems increasingly being outsourced to foreign and non-Federal Aviation Administration-certified repair stations. (See item [10](#))
- The Orlando Sentinel reports Central Florida's Lynx bus system is spending nearly \$1 million from the Department of Homeland Security to train its drivers and staff on how to spot terrorists and other criminals. (See item [16](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *June 26, Associated Press* — **Study: BRICs overtake U.S. in energy.** The main challengers to U.S. economic power — Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICs) — have overtaken the U.S. in dominating the global energy industry, according to a new study by Goldman Sachs. At the end of the first Gulf War in 1991, 55 percent of the 20 largest companies in the energy industry

by market capitalization were American, and 45 percent were European, according to the study. But in 2007, 35 percent of the 20 largest energy companies are from BRIC countries, about 35 percent are European, and about 30 percent are American. "The U.S. is now lagging with the smallest percentage number of energy companies worldwide," Anthony Ling of Goldman Sachs said. Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil Corp. is still the No. 1 energy company by market capitalization today, as it was in 1991, Ling said. But he said it is now followed by PetroChina Co., a unit of state-owned China National Petroleum; OAO Gazprom, the Russian state-controlled gas monopoly; Petroleo Brasileiro SA, or Petrobras, Brazil's government-run oil company; Sinopec, also known as China Petroleum & Chemical Co.; Russian oil producers OAO Rosneft and OAO Lukoil; China National Offshore Oil; and Oil & Natural Gas, India's state-owned oil company.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/26/AR2007062600021_pf.html

2. *June 26, Hartford Courant (CT)* — **Report: New England energy use could drop 18 percent.**

New England could slash its energy consumption by 18 percent just by using currently available technologies, according to a new report by a coalition of environmental groups. The report's recommendations for cutting energy consumption depend on a combination of improving efficiency and using more renewable energy. Key proposals include adopting more efficient technologies for heating, cooling and lighting residential and commercial buildings; increasing fuel economy standards for vehicles; and building wind and solar powered generators in the New England region. Roger Smith of Clean Water Action said New England does not need to wait for new technologies before cutting energy use significantly. Solar energy and insulating homes should be on the top of the agenda for Connecticut, Smith said.

Weatherizing houses would provide immediate reductions in home heating costs, Smith said, and installing solar panels would reduce electricity bills. An 18 percent reduction in energy consumption is "definitely doable," as long as the state continues to support incentives for efficiency, said Jeff Gaudiosi of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. "The higher the rates go, the more we see people starting to get involved in the efficiency program," he said.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/business/hc-lessenergy0626.artjun26.0.2305476.story?coll=hc-headlines-business>

3. *June 25, Reuters* — **Average U.S. gasoline price falls below \$3 a gallon.** The average price U.S. consumers pay to fill their vehicles' gasoline tanks dropped below \$3 a gallon for the first time in eight weeks, the Energy Information Administration said Monday, June 25. The national price for regular unleaded gasoline fell 2.7 cents over the last week to \$2.98 a gallon, up 11.3 cents from a year ago but the first time the average pump price was below \$3 since April 30. Gasoline hit a record high of \$3.22 a gallon May 21.

Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/19420024>

4. *June 24, Associated Press* — **Officials hope plan will stop hurricane evacuation fuel headaches.** Texas officials and oil company executives hope their plan to improve gasoline delivery during hurricanes will greatly reduce the sight of stranded motorists and shuttered gas stations during storm evacuations. Until Hurricane Rita in 2005 flooded Texas highways with 3.6 million fleeing residents, fuel supply wasn't a part of the state's nearly 200-page evacuation plan. Damaged production platforms and evacuated refineries left the oil industry vulnerable to the crush in demand for gasoline during the evacuation. After Rita, state disaster officials and

Shell, Citgo, Chevron, Valero, ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil, and Marathon met to craft a fuel delivery plan in times of hurricanes. The task force set a series of benchmarks, including: gas stations will no longer operate with storage tanks that are half-full or less during an evacuation; when storm winds are five days from the Texas shore, fuel trucks will be filled, positioned in preselected staging areas, and directed to gas stations along the coast; underground tanks will be filled to the 65 percent mark; when storm winds are two days away, fuel distribution will move from the coastline to stations along the state's key northern and western evacuation routes; among other benchmarks.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/4915901.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *June 25, ComputerWorld* — **DoD seeks builder for shape-shifting military robot.** Creative scientists have until next week to submit proposals for creating a shape-shifting military robot that can shrink and then reconfigure itself to normal height and shape. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is accepting proposals for building the so-called Chemical Robot from researchers until July 2. According to the Department of Defense (DoD) unit's request for proposals (RFP), potential developers should avoid using hard materials that can't "rapidly traverse arbitrary size/shape openings whose dimensions are much smaller than the robot itself and are not known a-priori." The RFP suggests using technologies like gels, thickening fluids and shape memory materials that can return to an original shape after completing a mission.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9025730&intsrc=hm_list

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *June 26, IDG News* — **Data breaches start at the gas station.** Using a credit card at a gas station could pose more of a risk for data theft than shopping online, as point-of-sale terminals have emerged as a weak link in the security chain, according to Avivah Litan, a Gartner analyst. When a card is swiped, point-of-sale (POS) terminals often collect and store the data held in the magnetic stripe on the back of a credit card, said Litan. Retailers are often unaware that their POS applications collect so much information. "It's almost more dangerous to go to the gas station than it is online," Litan said. "The data is just sitting there. No one even thought about what data is on a POS controller." Retailers' network configurations are partly to blame. Many are using the Internet to transmit data in place of dial-up networks, and many have incorporated wireless access points into their networks using WEP, or Wired Equivalent Privacy, which is not considered a strong form of encryption. Hackers lurk in parking lots

looking for weak networks to penetrate. Since the POS terminals are linked via IP, once a hacker has accessed a network they can try out neighboring IP addresses until they locate a store of data, Litan said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/06/26/Data-breaches-star-t-at-gas-station_1.html

7. *June 25, New Haven Independent (CT)* — **Bank scam mastermind sent to prison.** Making him an "example" in a pioneering white-collar crime prosecution, a federal judge sent the mastermind of the New Haven Savings Bank/NewAlliance bank scam to a year and a day in prison. U.S. District Judge Janet Bond Arterton recommended a minimum security "camp" for Robert R. Ross, 62, sentencing him Friday, June 22, to the prison term plus three years of supervised release. This case is believed to be the first federal prosecution of its kind involving people profiting illicitly from a bank conversion. Ross pleaded guilty to arranging to pour \$4.9 million of his own and his partners' money into lucrative stock sales to which they weren't legally entitled. He did it by giving the money to depositors of the old New Haven Savings Bank, located in Massachusetts and Connecticut, to buy favorably-priced stock in their own names in a 2004 initial public offering, when the bank demutualized and became NewAlliance. The depositors turned over the stock to Ross, who immediately sold it when the stock began trading publicly and grabbed a 50 percent profit. He shared a bit of those profits with the depositors.
- Source: http://www.newhavenindependent.org/archives/2007/06/bank_sca_m_maste.php

8. *June 25, SearchWinIT.com* — **New threat attacks transactions in Microsoft browsers.** Windows administrators at companies that conduct financial transactions online should be wary of a relatively new threat called "man-in-the-browser" attacks. Third-party transaction authentication tools and client-side certifications are ways that IT managers can ward off these types of insidious attacks. Man-in-the-browser attacks are a twist on a familiar threat called "man-in-the-middle attacks." With man-in-the-browser attacks, the idea of stealthily modifying or capturing data between parties is similar, but the difference is that as a financial transaction happens, the data can be stolen or changed. Man-in-the-browser attacks are more sinister than man-in-the-middle attacks because they use Trojan Horses that invisibly install themselves on users' systems through a Web browser. The attacks modify users' financial transactions when they visit a legitimate Website, such as their personal online banking accounts. The Trojan Horses are disguised as Web browser helper objects or browser extensions and hijack data during online transactions, according to Chenxi Wang of Forrester Research. Financial transactions can be modified on the fly as they are formed in browsers and still display the user's intended transaction. A man-in-the-browser attack might steal bank account numbers or personal information such as social security numbers or account logons and passwords.
- Source: http://searchwinit.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,s_id1_gci1262139,00.html

9. *June 25, IDG News* — **Secret Service helps break up ID, credit card theft rings.** The U.S. Secret Service has cracked down on an international ID theft ring that is responsible for more than \$14 million in fraud losses, the agency said Monday, June 25. On June 12, French National Police arrested four on online fraud charges, acting on information provided by the Secret Service. The arrests were part of an undercover investigation into the activities of an online criminal known by the alias, "Lord Kaisersose," who is "associated with Internet sites

known for identity theft and financial fraud activities," the Secret Service said. Investigators found more than 28,000 stolen credit- and bank-card numbers as a result of this operation, the Secret Service said. "Fraud losses associated with this investigation have exceeded \$14 million," the Secret Service said. At the same time the Secret Service, working with local authorities, closed down an illegal credit card-selling activity based out of Canada and France. This action, called Operation Hard Drive, led to the arrest of two suspects, who are allegedly behind more than \$1 million in credit card fraud.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/06/25/Secret-Service-operations-hit-ID-credit-card-theft_1.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *June 26, Christian Science Monitor* — **Outsourced repair for planes: safe?** The American aviation system is the safest in the world, in part because of the quality of the repair and maintenance systems that help keep those jumbo jets aloft. But an increasing number of critics worry that this long safety record is in jeopardy. That's because the repair and maintenance systems and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is responsible for inspecting them, are both in the midst of historic transformations. A record amount of work is being outsourced to foreign and non-FAA-certified repair stations. At the same time, the FAA has a decreasing number of inspectors, forcing it to rely more on computer models instead of looking over mechanics' shoulders to check their work. Depending on where one sits, the result is either an increasingly dangerous set of conditions or a triumph of the efficiencies of global economics and emerging technology. The controversy, which includes concerns about possible terrorist infiltration of foreign repair stations, has prompted two federal investigations and hearings on Capitol Hill. The nation's airlines have long outsourced some minor maintenance. The trend picked up during the 1990's and accelerated with the airlines' economic crisis that started in the spring of 2001 and continued after 9/11.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0626/p03s02-usgn.html?page=1>

11. *June 25, USA TODAY* — **Northwest's flight cancellations surge.** Northwest Airlines has canceled more than 850 flights in the past week, mostly because of crew shortages that management blames on disrupted work schedules from past bad weather. But pilots blame it on bad planning. According to tracker FlightStats, Northwest on Monday, June 25, canceled 10.9 percent of its 1,409 scheduled flights through 5 p.m. EDT. That was an improvement from its Sunday cancellation rate of 14.2 percent, but roughly 10 times the normal cancellation rate of the big airlines during good weather. Delta, Continental, and United had cancellation rates below 1 percent on Monday. Southwest and American had cancellation rates just above 2.5 percent. Northwest, in a statement, said severe weather in the East and Midwest in recent weeks disrupted its service, "causing increased crew duty time and the inability to consistently position aircraft and crews as needed." Northwest said it is relaxing ticket restrictions, increasing reservations staffing and contacting consumers to let them know their flights' status.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-06-25-northwest-usat_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

12.

June 25, USA TODAY — **Virgin Charter to help fliers, private jet charters connect.**

Billionaire Briton Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, is getting into the private jet charter business. Compared with the commercial airline industry, the private jet charter business is small but it's growing fast, both in hours flown and revenue. Virgin Charter, a new Virgin-financed Website scheduled to launch this fall, plans to use Internet technology to provide prospective buyers with immediate price quotes for the trip destination, day, and time requested. Virgin Charter will offer price quotes only from operators that undergo safety audits. Operators will not be charged for giving quotes, and passengers will not be charged for using the site. Virgin Charter CEO Scott Duffy says the site will also offer a dedicated area selling "empty legs," the inventory of trips that private jets will be flying without passengers. As many as 40 percent of private jet trips are flown empty because jets are shuttling to a different city to start a scheduled trip, or have delivered their passengers and are returning to home base. Jim Coyne, president of the National Air Transportation Association, a charter trade group, attributes industry growth to the improving quality of charter jet operations and the deterioration of U.S. airline service.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-06-25-private-charter-usat_N.htm

13. *June 25, Associated Press* — **Pilot program to expand fingerprinting at airports.** A program being launched at 10 U.S. airports this year will expand existing identification checks for visitors, including requiring 10 digital fingerprints, but still operate under strict privacy rules, a senior U.S. official said Monday, June 25. The border checks could also soon include other biometric data, such as facial and eye retina scans, as the U.S. upgrades security at its ports, airports and border crossings, said P.T. Wright, operations director for the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT Program. Wright, who was in Brussels to explain the new system to EU officials, said the pilot project would be launched later this year, expanding the current program that calls for taking two fingerprints and facial photographs of visitors to the United States. Airports chosen for the pilot project include Boston Logan International, Chicago's O'Hare, George Bush Houston Intercontinental, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, Miami International, John F. Kennedy International, Orlando International, San Francisco International, and Washington Dulles International. European Union (EU) data protection officials have raised privacy concerns in the past about the U.S. system and a similar fingerprint system being set up by EU nations.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37294&dcn=to_daysnews

14. *June 21, Department of Transportation* — **United States, Georgia sign Open-Skies agreement.** The United States and Georgia on Thursday, June 21, signed a full Open-Skies agreement that will permit the airlines of both countries to operate U.S.-Georgia air services without restriction, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters announced. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs Daniel S. Sullivan and Georgian Minister for Economic Development George Arveladze signed the agreement in Washington, DC. Open-Skies agreements permit unrestricted air service by the airlines of both sides between and beyond the other's territory, without restrictions on how often the carriers can fly, the prices they charge, or the kind of aircraft they use. The accord also will allow all-cargo carriers to fly between the other country and third countries without directly connecting to their homeland. It also allows U.S. and Georgian airlines to sell services that include both air transportation between the two countries and a connection by rail or other surface mode to additional cities in the other country or third countries. The United States now

has Open-Skies relationships with 89 aviation partners, including the members of the European Union, signed on April 30.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot6207.htm>

15. *June 21, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation invites applications for new U.S.–China aviation rights.** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on Thursday, June 21, invited airlines to file applications for new passenger air service between the United States and China. The six new flights are part of an agreement negotiated by DOT Secretary Mary E. Peters last May to more than double the number of daily passenger flights between the two countries by 2012. The Secretary said the Department expects to select two additional U.S. passenger carriers to begin daily service to China, one for this year and one beginning in March 2009. Current passenger carriers flying between the United States and China are United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, American Airlines and Continental Airlines. For more information: <http://dms.dot.gov>, docket number OST–2007–28567.
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot6307.htm>
16. *June 20, Orlando Sentinel (FL)* — **Lynx will spend DHS grant.** Central Florida's bus system (Lynx) is spending nearly \$1 million to train its drivers and other staff on how to spot terrorists and other bad guys. A recent \$908,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will allow Lynx to give all 1,000 employees lessons in terrorism awareness and emergency response. "This is good for us and for the community," said Linda Watson, corporate executive officer of the Lynx bus agency. "We need to be coordinating with law enforcement and fire departments to add to their eyes and ears." The program is the latest of several measures the bus agency has initiated with the help of Department of Homeland Security grants. Not all details have been worked out for the training to begin this summer, but Watson said Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary has offered to help bring in Israeli defense experts who have devised counterterrorism techniques for that country's public transit. After focusing on larger cities with mass-transportation systems, Homeland Security leaders wanted to make sure the next tier of cities is better prepared. That is especially important in cities with many visitors and public events.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/custom/growth/orl-buster-ror2007jun20.0.7921028.story?coll=orl-news-growth-headlines>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

17. *June 25, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Frogeye, not rust, found in Ohio soybean sentinel plots.** Ohio State University's soybean sentinel plot program, established in 2005 to track soybean rust, is fulfilling its purpose as the first line of defense against more immediate, threatening diseases. One of those is frogeye leaf spot. The foliar disease, rare in Ohio, was

recently identified at one of the 45 sentinel plot locations. “This is one of the clear benefits of this sentinel plot program. We can find and detect a disease long before controls need to be implemented,” said Anne Dorrance, an Ohio State University plant pathologist with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Although uncommon in Ohio, the disease has been showing up more frequently the past several seasons, and can greatly impact susceptible soybean varieties. Last year was the first time growers suffered economic losses to frogeye — anywhere from 10 percent to 30 percent yield losses on 300,000 acres.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=1055>

18. *June 25, Associated Press* — Mankato's black ash population suffering serious decline.

Dozens of trees that line boulevards in the Mankato, MN, area are dying, and local foresters aren't sure what's to blame. Under threat is the black ash tree, and the only thing foresters can say for sure is what's not causing the trees to die — ash borers, the target of an aggressive campaign by the Department of Agriculture to keep the insect parasites out of Minnesota, are not the cause. A major factor is likely the lack of precipitation in recent years, especially a lack of snow the last few winters that's caused soil to get too cold. Other suspects include a fungus called verticillium wilt, a disease called ash yellows and an insect called the cottony ash phyllid.

Source: http://www.wctrib.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D8Q01LK80&forumcomm_check_return

19. *June 25, Associated Press* — Power outage at hatchery kills salmon. Montana wildlife officials say about 110,000 chinook salmon died after the power went out for several hours at the state's new fish hatchery in Fort Peck. The outage happened during a storm on June 17th. It stopped fresh water from flowing into the hatchery's indoor tanks and an outdoor raceway, and caused the three-inch fingerlings to suffocate. Nearly three-quarters of salmon stock scheduled to be released this year into Fort Peck Reservoir were killed. The remaining quarter was salvaged and released into the lake after repeated attempts to restore power to the facility failed. Hatchery manager Andrew Ollenburg called the facility's loss of both primary and backup power a "freak occurrence." And he says hatchery employees are working to identify and correct the problems.

Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/138203.asp>

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Food Sector

20. *June 26, Associated Press* — China rejects two U.S. food products containing excessive bacteria, chemicals. Chinese inspectors have seized shipments of U.S.-made orange pulp and dried apricots containing high levels of bacteria and preservatives, the government said Tuesday, June 26. The move appeared to be the latest attempt by China to show it is not the only country with food export safety problems. Local departments have been ordered "to strengthen quarantine and inspections on food imports from America," according to a notice announcing the seizures posted on the Website of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, China's main food safety monitor. Importers have been asked to "make sure that food safety requirements are met in contracts when importing U.S. food so that trade risks are lowered," the notice said.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/06/26/asia/AS-GEN-China-Tainted-Food.php>

21. *June 25, Food Production Daily* — **New 'superbug' strain spreading in meat.** Retail meat from pigs, chickens and other livestock could be infected with a "superbug" strain of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). In the Netherlands, the MRSA strain has been found in 20 percent of pork, 21 percent of chicken and three percent of beef on sale to the public, the United Kingdom's Soil Association stated. "This new type of MRSA is spreading like wildfire across Europe, and we know it is transferring from farm animals to humans — with serious health impacts," said Richard Young, a policy adviser to the Soil Association. The association warned that MRSA found in farm animals have already transferred to farmers, farm-workers and their families in the Netherlands, causing serious health impacts. About 40 percent of pigs and 50 percent of pig farmers in the Netherlands have been found to carry farm-animal MRSA, the Soil Association stated.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=77618-mrsa-bse-soil-association>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

22. *June 26, Scotsman* — **International summit on bird flu amid rising fears of pandemic.** A summit on bird flu opens in Scotland Tuesday, June 26, amid growing fears that the deadly virus could cause a pandemic. About 30 experts from 15 countries will gather in Aviemore for the two-day event following a similar meeting in Kenya last year. It has been organized by the Avian Flu Task Force under the United Nations' international convention on migratory species, and includes delegates from Europe, Africa, South America and Asia. They will review outbreaks of avian flu around the world, which have led to the deaths of 191 people since 2003, and examine issues including the surveillance of wild birds in relation to the disease. Delegates will also discuss contingency planning and response strategies for outbreaks and what information is needed to understand potential infection routes and further local spread.

Source: http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=9960220_07

23. *June 25, Agence France-Presse* — **Doctor migration has limited impact on health care in poor countries.** The migration of doctors and nurses from the developing to the developed world has only a limited impact on the crisis in health care in poor countries, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a report Monday, June 25. The OECD noted that increased immigration of medical personnel to the 30 industrialized economies in the OECD had sparked fears of a "brain drain" that is depriving poor countries of critically needed health professionals. But the OECD, in its 2007 International Migration Outlook, said its research showed that the "global health workforce crisis goes far beyond the migration issue." It said the number of immigrant medical workers in OECD countries

represents "only a small fraction" — 12 percent in Africa, for example — of the needs of health care sectors in developing countries, as estimated by the World Health Organization. "In short, although stopping the flow, if this were indeed possible, would alleviate the problem, it would not by itself solve the shortage issue," the OECD maintained.

Report: http://www.oecd.org/document/39/0,3343,en_2649_201185_38835943_1_1_1_1,00.html

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070625/hl_afp/oecdimmigrationhealth_070625144110;_ylt=AjZ3SyyHj.LJvSyNgyZiLi.JOrgF

24. *June 25, Agence France–Presse* — **Scientists develop technology for cheap biosensor.** South Korean scientists said Monday, June 25, they had developed new technology to use transistors in devices for quick diagnosis of diseases. The biosensor technology was developed by a research team at the state–run Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. "We proved that transistors can be used not only for computers but also for devices that convert biological responses into electrical signals," team leader Choi Yang–Kyu said. "We have developed technology to create a tiny gap on a transistor to fill it with bio–molecules, or biologically responsive materials that detect diseases," he said.
- Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070625/hl_afp/healthskoreascience_070625162428;_ylt=AnunuJUD3YbCICu9pkC4jTWJOrgF

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Government Sector

25. *June 24, All Headline News* — **University of California bomb threat suspect may have had serious motives.** A former University of California (UC), Riverside student, Audley Yung, 22, made a bomb threat to UC in hopes that they would cancel graduation ceremonies for June 15. He did it so that his mother wouldn't discover he had dropped out of college. A police affidavit filed in court this week said that Yung admitted to sending a letter and two e–mails to university officials threatening to set off several explosives during commencements. Police also say that Yung may have had some more serious intentions than just idle threats. After searching Yung's apartment police found a letter in which he expresses his hatred of rich white and Chinese kids and he stated he wanted to kill them all. Yung was arrested June 16 and charged with six felony counts.
- Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7007735326>
26. *June 01, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–655: Wildland Fire Management: Lack of Clear Goals or a Strategy Hinders Federal Agencies' Efforts to Contain the Costs of Fighting Fires (Report).** Annual appropriations to prepare for and respond to wildland fires have increased substantially over the past decade, in recent years totaling about \$3 billion. The Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture and four agencies within the Department of the Interior (Interior) are responsible for responding to wildland fires on federal lands. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) determined what steps federal agencies have taken, in response to findings from previous studies, to (1) address key operational areas that could help contain the costs of preparing for and responding to wildland fires and (2) improve their management of their cost–containment efforts. To address these objectives, GAO reviewed previous cost–containment studies and other agency documents and interviewed agency

officials. GAO recommends that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior take several steps to improve their management of cost–containment efforts, including establishing clearly defined goals and measurable objectives and a strategy to achieve them, and provide this information to Congress in preparation for the 2008 fire season. The Forest Service and Interior generally disagreed with GAO’s findings, stating that GAO did not accurately portray some of the agencies’ actions to contain costs. They neither agreed nor disagreed with GAO’s recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07655high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-655>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *June 26, Mobile Radio Technology* — **New York City transit authority's million-dollar radio network too bogged down to use.** The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) of New York doesn't want to talk about its \$140 million radio communications system that is bogged down by so much interference that New York City transit police refuse to use it. The plan involved the installation of a fiber-optic communications network for the New York subway system that would provide reliable radio communications between street level officers and those assigned to the underground subway. It also was to integrate the city's fire department communications. The system's citywide installation was completed in late October 2006 — two years behind schedule. It combined existing police antennas, amplifiers and antenna cables to transmit radio signals from street level throughout the underground rail. It works by bouncing a signal from antenna to antenna and using myriad amplifiers to strengthen the signal as it moves throughout the subway system, but the system hasn't been turned on yet because the same signal also can enter the tunnel system through pedestrian staircases, which causes widespread interference, according to an MTA report. In addition, the MTA found antenna cables covering 72 miles of the subway system had deteriorated to such an extent that they could not carry a signal.

Source: <http://www.policeone.com/communications/articles/1283924/>

28. *June 26, Associated Press* — **Local American and Mexican officials sign disaster plan.** Representatives from neighboring cities at the junction of Mexico, Texas, and New Mexico have signed an agreement to share resources during environmental emergencies. Officials from signed the plan Monday, June 21. It arranges for cross-border responses by police, firefighters, paramedics and other first responders to major chemical spills, fires, and other emergencies that threaten communities on both sides of the border. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said its the 14th agreement of its kind between neighboring American and Mexican cities.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/4920224.html>

29. *June 25, Federal Computer Week* — **FEMA reaches staffing milestone.** Almost two years after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) drew widespread criticism for its coordination of rescue and recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina struck, the agency has reached its goal of being 95 percent fully staffed, according to the agency’s director of management. Deidre Lee announced the milestone at a conference hosted by Women In Technology (WIT) on Thursday, June 21. The embattled agency had aimed to reach the staffing

milestone by June 1, the beginning of the Atlantic hurricane season.

Source: <http://fcw.com/article103092-06-25-07-Web>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *June 26, eWeek* — **Analyst: WinSafari hole still open.** The vulnerabilities Errata Security found in Apple's Safari beta for Windows — within hours of the browser's June 11 launch — are still open, CTO Dave Maynor said in a blog on Monday, June 25. The Safari bugs are proof positive of Maynor's assertion that client-side vulnerabilities are easy as pie to find in Apple code, he said. "I basically just ran the OSX version of Safari through a fuzzer, and it crashed in a few seconds," he wrote in the June 25 post. Errata made test results public back on April 23 in this blog post after finding one particular exploit. The reason Apple hasn't jumped on fixing it, Maynor charges, is that the press has ignored this exploit.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2150911,00.asp>
31. *June 26, Sophos* — **Duo found guilty of operating spam business.** Experts at IT security and control firm Sophos have welcomed news that two men have been found guilty for their part in an international spam gang which bombarded innocent Internet users with graphic pornographic images. A federal jury has convicted James R. Schaffer, of Paradise Valley, AZ, and Jeffrey A. Kilbride, of Venice, CA, on charges including conspiracy, money laundering, fraud and transportation of obscene materials. Spam sent by Schaffer and Kilbride is said to have resulted in America Online receiving more than 600,000 complaints from users between 30 January and 9 June 2004.
Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/06/porn-spammers.html>
32. *June 26, Sophos* — **Shockwave as Trojan horse uses animated disguise.** Experts at Sophos have discovered a Trojan horse that disguises its malicious intent by playing a humorous animation. The Troj/Agent-FWO Trojan horse plays the popular "Yes & No" Shockwave video created by the Italian animator Bruno Bozzetto, but only after embedding itself on users' computers and downloading further malicious code from the Internet. "Yes & No," which was published on the Internet by Bozzetto in 2001, is a humorous video about how obeying the rules of the road does not always make sense. Hundreds of thousands of people are believed to have watched the online animation. According to Sophos experts, the Trojan horse is playing the animation as a smokescreen as it silently infects Windows computers.
Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/06/yesno.html>
33. *June 25, ComputerWorld* — **Hackers use 'construction kit' to unleash Trojan variants.** Multiple hacker groups are using a "construction kit" supplied by the author of a Trojan horse program discovered last October to develop and unleash more dangerous variants of the original malware. Already such variants have stolen sensitive information belonging to at least 10,000 individuals and sent the data to rogue servers in China, Russia and the United States, according to Don Jackson, a security researcher at SecureWorks Inc. The Prg Trojan, as it has been dubbed by SecureWorks, is a variant of another Trojan called wns poem that was unearthed in October. Like its predecessor, the Prg Trojan and its variants, are designed to sniff

sensitive data from Windows internal memory buffers before the data is encrypted and sent to SSL-protected Websites. What makes the threat from the Prg Trojan especially potent is the availability of a construction tool kit that allows hackers to develop and release new versions of the code faster than antivirus vendors can devise solutions, Jackson said. The toolkit allows hackers to recompile and pack the malicious code in countless subtly different ways so as to evade detection by antivirus engines typically looking for specific signatures to identify and block threats, Jackson said.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9025735&intsrc=hm_list

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